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The Secret of Japanese Art

Japan is not a rich nation, but it is essentially an artistic one, therefore the problem with the people for hundreds of years has been to obtain the greatest amount of beauty with the smallest amount of actual expenditure.

The result is that a perfectly developed sense of beauty has become an inalienable part of the national consciousness, and that ugliness is not. The poorest, straw-thatched village hut has beauty of line and

color in its sloping eaves and its brown, velvety thatch, and a touch of art in the line of yellow roof-lilies that grow along its ridge-pole. The cheapest, commonest interior has its charm of esthetic color and arrangement.

Beauty varies in degree, but not in fact; and it is not until one has lived some time in Japan that one suddenly awakens to the knowledge that the secret lies in the elimination of what is not beautiful.

New Magazines

The Magazine of Christian Art, under the general editorial direction of the Boston architect, Mr. Ralph Adams Cram, is to be started by the John C. Winston Co. of Philadelphia, publishers of *House and Garden*. The magazine will cover not only the ecclesiastical decorative arts but also church architecture and church music.

The Christmas number of *The Connoisseur*, the London art magazine, is an exceedingly attractive one. The frontispiece is a fine color reproduction of one of the gems of the Hainauer collection, the "Portrait of a Florentine Lady," by Pollaiuolo, which the Messrs. Duveen bought and Mr. Morgan's collection of miniatures are described by Dr. E. G. Williamson.

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